



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge, LA

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge (City-Parish) was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. The City-Parish (population 412,852) is a consolidated government that includes incorporated and unincorporated areas of Baton Rouge. The focus of this project is the City of Baton Rouge, especially the Old South Baton Rouge area. As development moved to outlying areas, the old neighborhoods within the Baton Rouge city limits experienced significant economic decline and an increase of abandoned commercial and industrial sites. These



Assessment Grant



\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct Phase I and II environmental site assessments throughout the Parish of East Baton Rouge, with a focus on the City of Baton Rouge. Grant funds also will be used for community outreach activities.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 6 Brownfields Team
214-665-2241

<http://www.epa.gov/region6/brownfields>

Grant Recipient: City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge, LA
225-389-3144

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

neighborhoods have the greatest concentration of minorities, and the highest poverty and unemployment levels in the City-Parish. In the Old South Baton Rouge area, 93 percent of residents are African-American, and 23.5 percent are unemployed. Almost half of the area's residents live below the poverty level. The City-Parish estimates that 400 brownfields sites are located in the area. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the population of the City-Parish has significantly increased with the influx of evacuees from the New Orleans area. This sudden population growth has placed a large demand on the local real estate market. Brownfields assessment and eventual cleanup is expected to

help remove obstacles to redevelopment, including environmental concerns, and encourage investment in the urban core of Baton Rouge, particularly in the Old South Baton Rouge area. Revitalization is expected to restore healthy, liveable communities that will boost neighborhood pride for residents of the City of Baton Rouge.